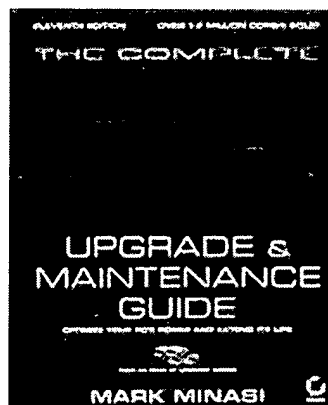


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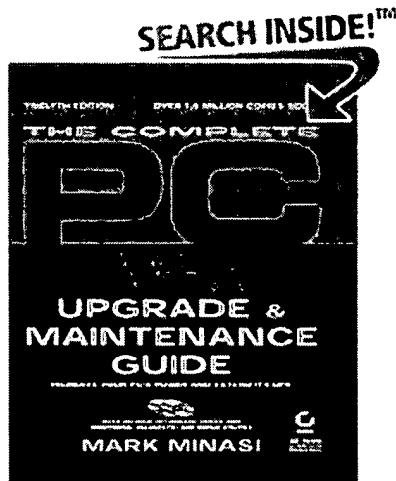
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Updated every year, this book immediately distinguishes itself from similar titles with its sheer and comprehensive coverage. Minasi, CNN's resident computer expert, covers basic tasks such as disassembling a PC to advanced topics like formatting SCSI devices. This edition includes helpful illustrations of common upgrades a first in the book's 12-year history as well as two CDs (one is a long instructional video, and the other contains more than 25 diagnostic tools). The latter are lost or stolen, but the book's text still stands strongly on its own. A more affordable but less in-depth guide is Preston Gralla's *How To Expand & Upgrade PCs* (Computer Media, LJ 6/1/01). Minasi's is highly recommended.

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Book Description

This extensively revised and updated 12th edition of the best-selling guide to PC upgrading and maintenance includes updated information on memory, modems, sound boards, disk drives, printer problems, operating system upgrades, video capture, digital audio, networking, combo printers, guides, memory, and more.

--Written in a friendly, easy-to-follow style, the book provides essential background and conceptual information that teaches readers how computers work.

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I've taken several technical support certification courses, and this was the textbook I used in half of them. Mark Minasi is an excellent writer who is able to "dumb down" all the minute details and very well the technical jargon of the trade. Minasi is also the writer of several Windows 2000 books I've also read, and I've taken a fondness for his ability to start really big and progress quickly in details without ever losing my interest or attention.

The chapters on hardware installation and introduction to networks are the best written and most authoritative material I've used to learn the subtle aspects of TCP/IP, ethernet, and token/bus network topologies. Also, the chapters on computer upgrading and "building a dream computer from scratch" are excellent.